

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated August 6, 2004. Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-21.

By the present Amendment, the rejected claims 22-25 have been canceled, without prejudice to the Applicants' right to proceed with the filing of a Continuation application directed to these cancelled claims, or other claims. By virtue of the cancellation of these claims 22-25, the application is now in condition for allowance in light of the indication of allowance of the remaining claims 1-21. Therefore, entry of this Amendment, and allowance of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment, notwithstanding the finality of the Office Action. With regard to this, it is noted that 37 CFR § 1.116 permits entry of amendments after final rejection for purposes of cancellation of claims at any point during the prosecution of an application. Inasmuch as the present Amendment is solely for purposes of canceling the claims to place the application in condition for allowance with subject matter noted by the Examiner as allowable, entry of this Amendment is requested under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.116.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

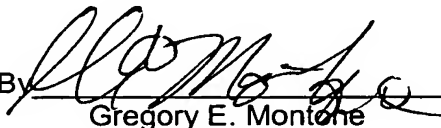
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To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.41141X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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